

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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R 292122Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY DOHA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, XF, MO, TS, AG, LY

SUBJECT: JOINT MIDEAST-AMERICAN BUSINESS CONFERENCE--

AUGUST 2-6, UNIVERSITY OF MAINE--Q'S AND A'S

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1. FOLLOWING Q'S AND A'S PREPARED ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS.

Q. IS EITHER THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE A SPONSOR OF THE JOINT MIDEAST-AMERICAN BUSINESS CONFERENCE?

A. NEITHER THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE IS A SPONSOR OF THE JOINT MIDEAST-AMERICAN BUSINESS CONFERENCE; NOR WILL THE STATE OR COMMERCE DEPARTMENTS BE OFFICIALLY REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE.

Q. THE CONFERENCE MATERIALS SEEM TO REFLECT AN ENDORSEMENT BY SECRETARY KISSINGER.

A. THE CONFERENCE MATERIALS MERELY QUOTE FROM A ROUTINE STATE DEPARTMENT CABLE, WHICH NOTIFIED FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS OF THE CONFERENCE. AS YOU KNOW, ALL DEPARTMENT CABLES ARE SIGNED "KISSINGER."

Q. DID KISSINGER PERSONALLY APPROVE THE CABLES ON THIS SUBJECT?

A. NO.

Q. WHY WOULD THE DEPARTMENT GIVE ANY KIND OF COOPERATION TO A MIDEAST BUSINESS CONFERENCE WHICH EXCLUDES ISRAEL?

A. THE FOCUS OF THE CONFERENCE, ACCORDING TO THE ORGANIZERS, IS THE PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC TIES WITH THE OIL-RICH COUNTRIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST. THE ROUTINE SERVICE WE HAVE PROVIDED IS NO MORE THAN THAT GIVEN TO ANY U.S. BUSINESSMEN OR GROUPS SEEKING TO ESTABLISH OR EXPAND BUSINESS TIES ABROAD. WE ALSO PROVIDE SIMILAR ASSISTANCE TO BUSINESSMEN SEEKING TO PROMOTE AN EXPANSION OF U.S. ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH ISRAEL.

Q. WHAT HAS THE DEPARTMENT DONE RECENTLY IN THE WAY OF HELPING U.S. BUSINESSMEN EXPAND TIES WITH ISRAEL?

A. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THERE WILL BE U.S. GOVERNMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTICIPATION IN AN OCTOBER 1976 NEW YORK CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY THE WORLD TRADE INSTITUTE CALLED "NEW ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES OF U.S.-ISRAEL TRADE."

2. ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW ON ABOVE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE CONFERENCE. KISSINGER

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